

Darla walked quickly down the hall toward homeroom. It would not be wise to be late for Mr. Jones' homeroom period. Mr. Jones was known for yelling at the top of his voice whenever anyone was late for his class. Darla slid into her seat just before the homeroom bell rang. Mr. Jones called roll first. Then he took up lunch money and asked everyone to be quiet for the morning announcements.

The voice of Mr. Kidd, the principal, came over the loudspeaker. "Good morning, students," said Mr. Kidd. "Today is the first day of September and we must start electing officers for the school. Remember, if you want to be an officer, you must come and let me know." Darla began to think about being an officer as Mr. Kidd read the rest of the announcements. "I wouldn't mind being president," she thought.

The next day, Darla told Mr. Kidd that she would like to run for president of the school. "It's a tough job," said Mr. Kidd, "but I think you would make a good president." Darla talked to her two best friends and got them to help her make signs to put in the hall. Her signs said, DARLA FOR PRESIDENT, ONLY THE BEST WILL DO. Darla also began talking to the students in the hall and asking them to vote for her.

Darla knew that Eddie also wanted to be school president. His hall signs said, EDDIE IS READY TO BE YOUR PRESIDENT. Eddie said mean things about Darla to the other students. He said that Darla was just a girl and would not be a good president. Darla decided that she would not be mean like Eddie. She would not lower herself to his level.

At last, the day of the elections arrived. Darla felt very nervous when she woke up that morning. She wanted to win, but the mean things Eddie had said about her might have made people change their minds. They might not want to vote for her.

The voting booth at school was very busy. Almost all of the students at school had voted. At the end of the day, Mr. Kidd's voice came over the intercom. "Students," he said, "I want to give you the results of today's election." He read out the names of the new secretary and vice-president. At last, he was ready to announce the new president. Darla sat in her seat pretending that she did not care but inside her stomach was in knots. "Our new president is Darla Reed!" said Mr. Kidd. Darla sat up in her seat with a big grin on her face. She had won the race!

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